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Tact and Patience of Police Key to Crowd Control

Few Arrests and Injuries Contrast With '62 Rally

By EMANUEL PERLMUTTER

With teamwork and moderation, the city's police kept a dangerous situation under control in Times Square yesterday and prevented anti-Castro demonstrations from erupting into serious violence.

Despite repeated provocation and skirmishes with thousands of demonstrators, they succeeded in maintaining order and protecting the 1,400 persons who attended a Town Hall rally of American students who traveled to Cuba.

Working with precision and efficiency, 100 helmeted mounted and motorcycle policemen formed a cordon in Times Square and kept the demonstrators from preventing those who attended the meeting from leaving by subway.

Waves of anti-Castroites shouting at the police as well as their political opponents tried vainly to breach the blue-coated lines. Clubs in hand, the police held fast.

Fifteen mounted policemen wheeled their mounts through the throngs when the crowds became too menacing.

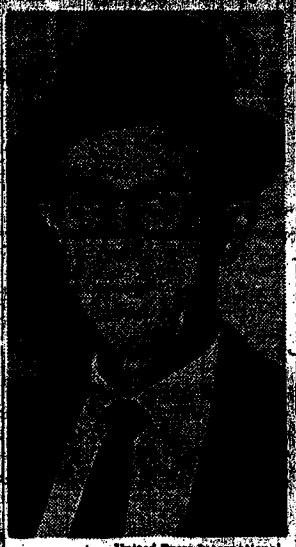
Assistant Chief Inspector Anthony S. O'Connell, head of the Manhattan South uniformed force, was in charge of the police detail.

Egg Hits Inspector

Chief O'Connell ordered approximately 300 policemen on the scene to use tact and patience while maintaining order. They followed his instructions.

He maintained his own patience even when struck by an egg that spattered him and a newspaper reporter at his side.

Assistant Chief Inspector Walter F. Henning, head of the Central Office Bureau and Squads, was in charge of 50 detectives, many of them Spanish-speaking. They circulated among those in Town Hall as well as among the demonstrators in the street to head off trouble.



United Press International

Anthony S. O'Connell during the rally yesterday.

One policeman suffered a cut on his hand when two demonstrators threw him down and stepped on him. A police horse was injured when pushed against a parked car on 42d Street east of Broadway. The animal required two stitches. No other injuries to police personnel were reported.

Only five persons were arrested.

The minor accidents and the small number of arrests were in marked contrast to the peace rally in Times Square on March 3, 1962, when several persons were injured and 42 arrested.

After the 1962 rally, the police were accused of brutality against the pacifist demonstrators.

In yesterday's incident, the police showed exceptional forbearance in face of repeated sallies by the demonstrators.

Several thousand spectators watched the police efforts to prevent the demonstrations from becoming riots.

Kept off 43d Street between Broadway and the Avenue of the Americas by police barricades, the anti-Castroites roamed all around the perimeter of the restricted area, shouting, singing and surging against the mounted and foot patrolmen.

Innocent victims of the demonstrators were passers-by who wore beards, were long-haired or wore beatnik type of clothes. The anti-Castroites seemed to identify the beards with Castro and the long hair and informal garments with Communism.

The police found themselves constantly rushing to the defense of the beatniks set upon by the anti-Castroites. One bearded young man was chased by the demonstrators up the Avenue of the Americas from 44th to 50th Street.

Preparations Begun

Official preparations for yesterday's demonstrations began a week ago when the Police Department's Intelligence Bureau first heard of the plans for the rally.

Street demonstrators were required to report their plans to the local precinct captain. Chief O'Connell met with the anti-Castro leaders on Saturday and informed them that he would permit 25 pickets across the street from Town Hall.

The clashes with the police resulted when the demonstrators rejected the pleas of their leaders and tried to join the 25 Street pickets.

Transit Authority police helped those who attended the meeting to leave by subway safely by escorting them across the Times Square station platforms and onto the trains.

A Tactical Police Force emergency bus was stationed at Times Square throughout the day, but its personnel had no occasion to use their riot apparatus.

Inspector Maintains Aplomb When Struck by an Egg